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LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1962 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUGOSLAV
DELEGATION ADDRESSED TO THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a message addressed to you by the President of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito.

I should appreciate it if you would kindly bring the message to the immediate notice of the Member States of the United Nations, in accordance with the usual procedure, as a United Nations document.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Vladimir Popovic
Chairman of the Yugoslav Delegation to
the Seventeenth Session of the United
Nations General Assembly

Belgrade, 30 October 1962

It gives me sincere pleasure to address myself to you at a time when you are carrying out with a success which encourages us the noble task you have been entrusted with by the United Nations. The decision of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to dismantle the missile sites in Cuba, and the declared readiness of the United States to offer, in these conditions, guarantees through the United Nations for the independence and sovereignty of Cuba, signify a substantial turn for the better in this acute crisis. Important preconditions have, at the same time, thus been created, owing to the fact that reason prevailed in the final phase, for the successful initiation of direct negotiations between the countries involved in the dispute, and these will, we believe and sincerely hope, lead, with your continued assistance, to the ending of this crisis, which threatened to entail the most serious consequences and caused grave misgivings in our country and throughout the world.

The main purpose which should, in our opinion, now be achieved is to ensure the rapid implementation of all that had been agreed to in principle. This is necessary because it is only thereby that the situation will move towards normalization. Your visit to Cuba will undoubtedly contribute much towards this end. It is obvious that the situation must be considered as still dangerous while the blockade lasts, and also until the dismantling of the sites I have mentioned has begun, and even after that. All the more so as the question of ensuring the independence of Cuba and of preventing interference in her independent development had arisen, as you are certainly aware, even prior to recent events. It is therefore obvious that an essential element of the understanding that has been reached and of its implementation is an effective international guarantee of the security, the independence, the sovereignty and the integrity of Cuba, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, and this should be accepted by all countries, including, naturally, the Government of the United States. Cuba, too, would thus be ensured the essential conditions for participating in international relations on a footing of equality. The negotiations for the termination of

the crisis would thus lead to the results we all expect, i.e., they would constitute a direct introduction into a more lasting settlement of relations and a stabilization of conditions in the area around Cuba.

A further contribution to peace in the area would be settlements which would guarantee the legitimate interests and rights of all the countries situated therein. What I have in mind here are, above all, the significant ideas and proposals put forth by the Government of Brazil in this sense.

I think, however, that we would all be remiss in our duty if we did not, on this occasion, when the very maintenance of peace has been brought into jeopardy, seek to perceive the more profound causes which led to so serious a situation, and if we failed to do our utmost to render impossible the occurrence of new crises through a gradual elimination of these causes. It is a fact that the unsatisfactory state of international relations and, above all, the tension between the blocs and the nature of the relations between the great Powers, all of which are closely linked with the constant aggravation of the armaments race, and more particularly of the nuclear weapons tests, rank foremost among these causes. It seems to me, therefore, that one of the main tasks should now be an increased general effort towards their removal. All the more so as this is a course which has already been clearly indicated at the present session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and the Cuban crisis has shown that things should not be allowed to run the way they have been doing, merely because no formal agreement has yet been achieved on ending this dangerous trend of affairs. What I have in mind here is the fact that, for instance, amidst the Cuban crisis, behind its screen, so to speak, the nuclear weapons tests continued, not to mention the other acute problems which are also awaiting, or rather demanding, particularly in the light of the Cuban crisis, their urgent solution.

It is in this spirit and from this viewpoint that we have been following, from the outset, with keen interest and understanding your noble action and give it our full support. I wish to assure you that we shall continue to do so in the same spirit so as to ensure the desired and so essential success of this action.

Yours very sincerely,

Josip Broz Tito